

Memo of Record
Quality and Accountability Policy Group
Council on Postsecondary Education
March 24, 2006

The Quality and Accountability Policy Group, a committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education, met March 24, 2006, at 8 a.m. at the Council office, Meeting Room B, in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Mark Wattier presided over the meeting

Policy group members present: Peggy Bertelsman, Joan Taylor, Mark Wattier, and Gene Wilhoit. Policy group members absent: Phyllis Maclin and Walter Baker.

**2006-08 Trust Fund
Guidelines and Fund
Distribution Priorities**

Jim Applegate, CPE's vice president for academic affairs, discussed the 2006-08 Trust Fund Guidelines and Fund Distribution Priorities. The state's budgeting process has advanced since the last Council meeting, and it appears that the trust funds may not be fully funded. Council staff is working with the institutions to prioritize the redistribution of funds in the event that the programs are not fully funded.

**Kentucky Conference
on Developmental
Education**

The Council held a statewide conference on developmental education March 13-14, 2006, in Lexington. Sue Cain of Eastern Kentucky University provided a summary of the conference. CPE is partnering with Kentucky Adult Education, high schools, and the Kentucky Department of Education to reduce the number of underprepared students in Kentucky. Postsecondary institutions also need to be held accountable for the success of underprepared students once admitted. At the conference, institutions made plans to improve developmental education. A written report on campus plans will be provided at the May 2006 Council meeting.

After the conference, Ms. Cain surveyed institutions across the state. The recommendations include forming a developmental education taskforce similar to the Statewide Transfer Committee. There is need for continuing conversation on campuses. Few departments use tenure-track professors to teach

developmental education. Often the instructors are part-time, late hires, and untrained in developmental education. An online program for developmental faculty was suggested. The guidance of a statewide committee is needed.

In 2000 legislation, CPE was called to develop standards, which resulted in the Mandatory Placement Policy. However, it was left to the institutions to develop strategies for developmental education. It is an area that the whole campus needs to embrace and in which CPE needs to be involved.

Reecie Stagnolia, CPE's associate vice president for adult education, shared information about a pilot project that helps adult learners transition to postsecondary education. Attaining a GED is not enough rigor for college-level work. The goal is for adult learners to not have to take developmental education courses. There are several challenges for the adult learners, including limited counseling about financial aid, careers, and majors. In addition, challenges remain in making scholarships and child care available.

Also, affordability is an issue for the postsecondary adult learner. Institutions need to engage with Kentucky Adult Education. Because adult learners often are part-time students, they can exhaust Pell Grants and other funds before attaining a degree. Eighty-one percent of adult education graduates go to KCTCS.

Chair Wattier suggested that this issue be studied by a Council work group rather than a task force. It was agreed that the group would be ad hoc and, based on its findings, the policy group will decide if it needs to be a permanent group. The policy group charged the staff to come back with details about the make up, policies, and timeline for the work group.

John Hayek, CPE's associate vice president for planning and performance, provided background information on NSSE. The NSSE survey collects quality of learning data from undergraduate students that can be used to support institutional improvement and accountability.

Use of National Survey of Student Engagement to Improve Student Learning

The Council also has used NSSE information to assess the level of civic engagement of Kentucky's undergraduates. NSSE is considered the "gold standard" for assessing students' experiences in postsecondary education.

The Council is sponsoring a Student Engagement Conference May 23 and 24 as a pre-conference event, in advance of the Faculty Development Conference, to feature sessions with the NSSE Institute staff. In 2005, the NSSE staff completed a two-year research project examining 20 educationally effective colleges. At the request of the Quality and Accountability Policy Group, campuses were polled to determine how NSSE results have been used to date. Overall, Kentucky four-year institutions find NSSE to

NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

be a valuable survey. The implementation of the NSSE survey statewide provides a rich data source for institutions working to improve student learning.

John Hayek said Council staff will meet with the Council of Student Affairs Officers May 1. The group is very interested in NSSE.

Chair Wattier and Peggy Bertelsman asked that John Hayek's report be brought to the full Council at its May 22 meeting, including a report from each campus on the use of NSSE.

The next Quality and Accountability Policy Group meeting will be May 22, 2006, 8 a.m. EDT.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

James L. Applegate
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jerry Ann Warmouth

Executive Secretary